

Nematicidal activity of some Sri Lankan plants

The nematode *Meloidogyne incognita*, is a wide spread nematode found in all five continents. Plants attacked by nematodes show retard growth and development as well as reduced the quality and quantity of the harvest. Therefore it is important to identify the compounds for reducing and controlling nematode population to increase the world,s food production.

In a continuation of our studies towards the discovery of biologically active compounds from Sri Lanka plants, we have screened teenty-six plant extracts from fourteen plants for nematicidal activity against the second larval stage of the plant parasitic root knot nematode *Meloidogyne incognita*. The CH₂Cl₂ extract of stem of *Lepisanthus tetrapylla* (Sapindaceae), CH₂Cl₂ and MeOH extracts of the stem of *Allophyllus cobbe* (Sapindaceae), crude alkaloid extract of the aerial parts of *Sarcococca zeylanica* (Buxaceae) and CH₂Cl₂ extract of the leaves and the MeOH extract of the stem of *Hedyotis lawsoniae* (Rubuaceae) showed strong nematicidal activity. These extracts could be potential for the isolation of nematicidal compounds.